

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 83 (Gas Station Accessibility)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 83 which essentially requires gas stations that offer only self service to have a minimum of one fueling site with an accessible calling device which signals employees that a qualified person with a disability needs refueling assistance. SCPD strongly endorses the proposed legislation.

Currently, most qualified people with disabilities have to honk their horn to get the attention of a gas station employee. In reality this is not practical since the employees may not hear the honking or they do not even recognize that the honking is a “signal” for a person trying to obtain refueling assistance. Although the ADA and Delaware State law already require that such stations provide refueling assistance, people with disabilities still report that they are unable to get service – gas station employees simply do not respond to honked horns. The requirement of the call button mandated by H.B. 83 will ensure that employees are aware that people need assistance and are able to obtain gas just like everyone else.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

